

the fair *Venetia*, who has grown under my
paternal care,
and as much in grace, I hope, as in stature, or
rather
dimensions. She is truly like her prototype

' The child of love, though born in
bitterness, And nurtured in
convulsion';¹

but I hope she will prove a source of
consolation to her parent, and also to her
godmother, for I consider you to stand in that
relation to her. I do not think that you will find
any golden hint of our musing strolls has been
thrown away upon me; and I should not be
surprised if, in six weeks, she may ring the bell at
your hall door, and request admittance, where I
know she will find at least one sympathising
friend. . . .

I have, of course, no news from this extreme
solitude. My father advances valiantly with his
great enterprise, but works of that calibre are
hewn out of the granite with slow and elaborate
strokes. Mine are but plaster-of-Paris casts, or
rather statues of snow that melt as soon as they
are fashioned.²

The novel appeared in May, its full
title being * *Venetia or the Poet's daughter*,'
and its parentage being assigned to 'The
Author of *Vivian Crrey* and *Henrietta
Temple*? a variant on the previous formula
that may be interpreted as Colburn's
tribute to the success of *Henrietta*. There is
a dedication to Lyndhtirst in which the
author tells him that ' In happier hours
when I first mentioned to you the idea of this
work, it was my intention, while inscribing it
with your name, to have entered into some
details as to the principles which had guided
me in its composition, and the feelings
with which I had attempted to shadow
forth, though as " in a glass darkly," two of
the most renowned and refined spirits that
have adorned these our latter days.' This
explanation, which might have been so
illuminating, was unluckily never given,
and we can only conjecture the motives
that prompted Disraeli at this time to turn
to the two 'renowned and refined spirits,'
Byron and

¹ These words from the third canto of *Childe Harold*
appeared on
the title page.

² From Mr. Alfred Morrison's collection.